

The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you

April 23, 10am Service



The First Church in Albany

MAY 2023

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| | <div style="text-align: center;">  HAPPY <i>Mother's</i> Day  </div> | | | | | | |
| |  Albany Tulip Fest May 13 & 14 |  1 Prayer Shawl Mtg. 11am | Zoom Study noon 2 |  3  AA |  4 A Night of Worship | 5 Cinco de Mayo | 6 |
| |  7   Heritage Sunday |  8 | Zoom Study noon 9 |  10  AA | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| |  14  Mother's Day & Congregational Mtg. |  15 | Zoom Study noon 16 |  17   AA | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| First Drive-In Service |  21   |  22 | Zoom Study noon 23 Women's Network Event |  24  AA | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| |  28    Pentecost |  29 Memorial Day Office Closed | Zoom Study noon 30 |  31  AA | <div style="text-align: center;">  Heritage Sunday May 7  </div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">The First Church in Albany</div> | | |

Key:

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | AW |
| Pantry 9am | Centering Prayer 12pm | Drive In Worship 10am | Communion Sunday | Lemonade Lull | Coffee Hour | Weather vanes 12:30pm | Choir Rehearsal | After Worship |

The First Church in Albany
(Reformed Church in America)

Founded in 1642; Continuing in Ministry Today.

In response to God's unconditional love for all people made known to us in Jesus Christ, we are called to be a welcoming and affirming community. The First Church in Albany includes young and old, families, couples and singles, rich and poor, persons of various races, ethnicities, backgrounds, sexual orientation and gender identities, differing physical and mental abilities, believers and seekers. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down dividing walls and building a community where we are loved.

Earth Day and Third Sunday of Easter
April 23, 2023

Prelude Reflection *Instructions on Not Giving Up by Ada Limón*

More than the fuchsia funnels breaking out
of the crabapple tree, more than the neighbor's
almost obscene display of cherry limbs shoving
their cotton candy-colored blossoms to the slate
sky of Spring rains, it's the greening of the trees
that really gets to me. When all the shock of white
and taffy, the world's baubles and trinkets, leave
the pavement strewn with the confetti of aftermath,
the leaves come. Patient, plodding, a green skin
growing over whatever winter did to us, a return
to the strange idea of continuous living despite
the mess of us, the hurt, the empty. Fine then,
I'll take it, the tree seems to say, a new slick leaf
unfurling like a fist to an open palm, I'll take it all.



Prelude

“Terra Beata”

A.Fedak

Tolling of Bell: *bell tolled by children of First Church*

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing First sentence of the Hebrew *Kiddush* blessing; literally, "sanctification," it is a blessing recited over wine or grape juice to sanctify the Shabbat (Sabbath) and Jewish holidays.

"Blessed are You, Lord our God, Sovereign of the Universe, Who sanctified us with Your commandments, and hoped for us, and, with love and intent, invested us with Your sacred Sabbath, as a memorial to the deed of Creation."

Call to Worship *Based on Pope Francis's encyclical Laudato si': On Care For Our Common Home*

Leader: In *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis reminds all Christians that "our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God." For the Earth is our common home, a beautiful gift from God.

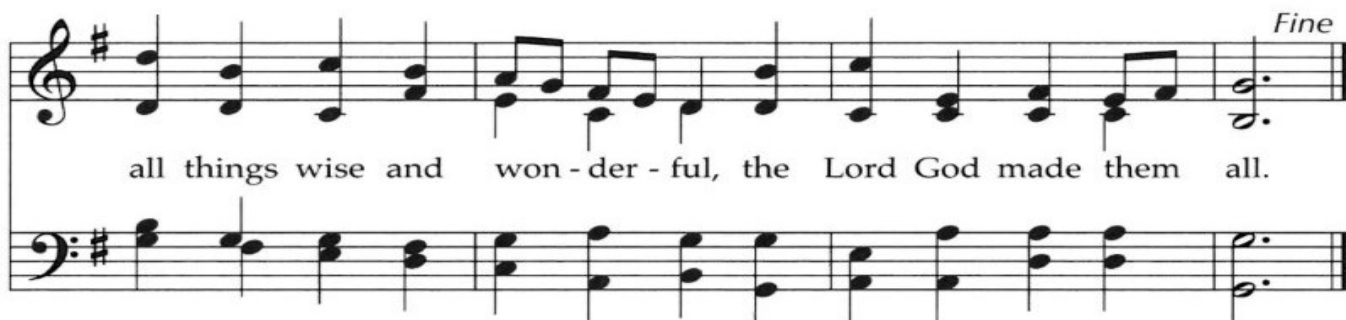
People: Therefore, we are called to be stewards of this gift, to care for and protect all of creation.

Leader: As we gather in worship today, let us reflect on our relationship with God, others, and all living things.

People: May we be inspired to take up the Divine task of "renewing all things," and work for a flourishing world.

***Opening Hymn** All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain



1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
 2 The pur - ple-head-ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,
 4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

God made their glow-ing col - ors; God made their ti - ny wings.
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky:
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

to Refrain

One of a series of hymns the author wrote for children on the Apostles' Creed, this text (originally in seven stanzas) expands "Maker of heaven and earth." The first stanza became the refrain when the text was later set to a popular tune from the age of King Charles II.

TEXT: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848, alt.

MUSIC: English melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915; harm. *The Hymnbook*, 1955
 Music Harm. © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

ROYAL OAK

7.6.7.6 with refrain

CCLI# 1296903

Prayer of Confession

Creator God, we confess that we have not always been good stewards of your creation. We have exploited the earth for our own selfish gain, neglecting our responsibility to care for the environment and the lives of our fellow human beings. Send your Holy Spirit to transform our lives, and give us the strength to work toward social and ecological justice. Amen.

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law *Based on Al Wolters' Creation Regained*

Dear friends, hear the good news: "Redemption is not just about saving souls, it is about putting creation back on its feet... God's salvation entails the restoration of the whole created order." Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have been reconciled to God. So, be empowered to participate in the restoration of all things; you are free to live as agents of restoration, healing, and justice in the world.

***Passing the Peace**



Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with a hand-sign of peace.

Touch your thumb to the tip of your ring finger, and wave to one another. This hand-sign makes Christ's gesture of blessing in a lot of iconography in the Orthodox Tradition.

Children's Message & Blessing Earth Day

Prayer for Illumination *Quoted text from Romans 8:22*

God, on this third Sunday of Easter, reveals to us that your resurrection is a gift that extends beyond ourselves; even though "the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains," all of creation will also receive resurrection life. Amen.

Sermon Text

Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.
God will dwell with them;
they will be God's peoples,
and God will be with them and be their God;
God will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
 People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon "See, I am making all things new!"

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

*Hymn of Response

Revelation 21

I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW

words and music by
 Wendell Kimbrough



1. Then I saw the hea-vens o - pen, for the
 2. Then I saw God's ho - ly ci - ty, New Jer-
 3. We will no more fear the dark-ness, and the



for - mer things were past. And I heard my Sa - vior sing - ing: "I have come for you, at
 u - sa - lem, de - scend. And a voice an-nounced with splen-dor, "I will dwell with you, my
 night will be like day; for the Lamb in all His beau - ty, like a torch, will light our



last! I will wipe a - way death's sor - row; you will no more cry or grieve. To the
 friends! I will be your God for - e - ver; you will ne - ver leave my side. You were
 way. And the gates of that great ci - ty ne - ver close to those who come; ev - ery



thirs - ty I give heal - ing; from the spring of life come drink!" For be -
 al - ways my be - lo - ved; now, at last, you'll be my Bride!"
 na - tion brings its glo - ry to our new cre - a - tion home!



hold, I am ma-king all things new! Write this down; ev'-ry word is true. Tell the world what I



came to do: I am mak-ing all things new!

Litany (see insert)

Tithes & Offerings

If you would like to connect more with the life and mission of First Church, please fill out a Welcome Card found in your pew and place it in the offering as it goes by.

Offertory “Pastorale: Fair Are the Meadows”

A. Fedak

***Doxology #592 in pew hymnal**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayers of the People

Leader: O Lord,

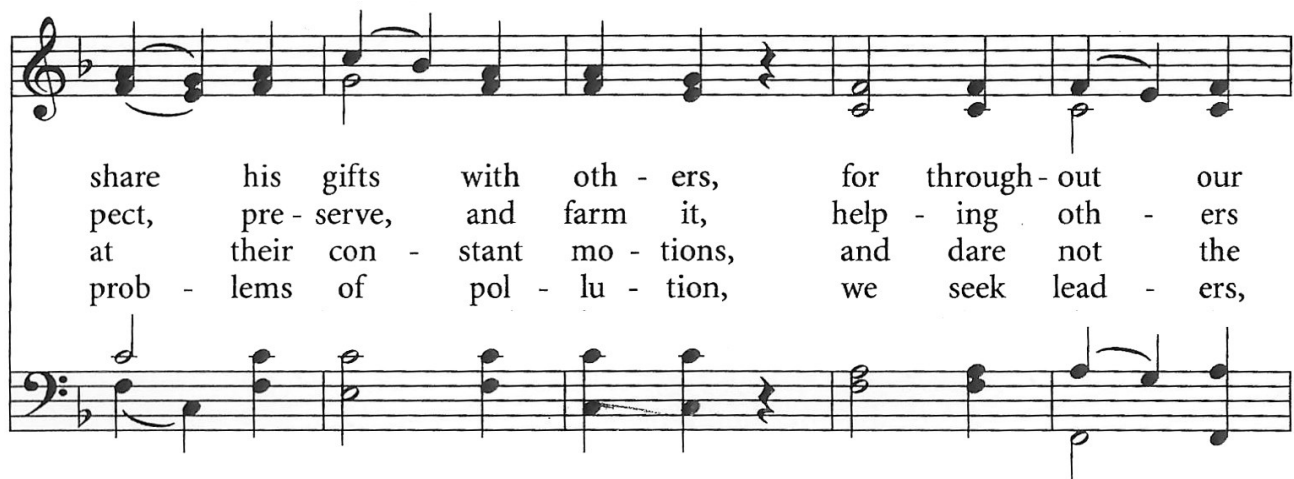
People: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

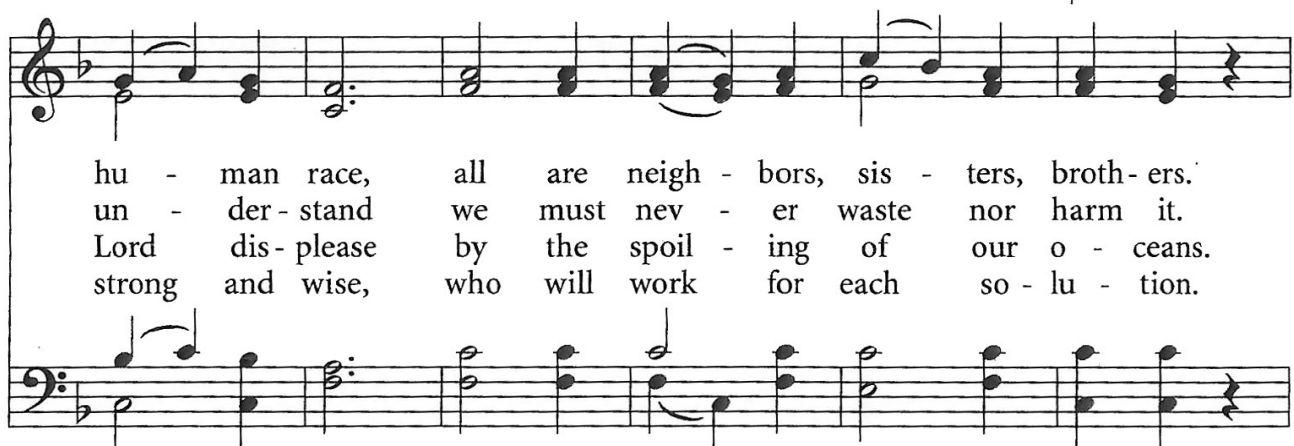
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

***Sending Hymn We Are Stewards of God's Grace**

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'We Are Stewards of God's Grace'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in G major (one sharp). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: 1 We are stew - ards of God's grace, called to; 2 We are stew - ards of God's land, and res -; 3 We are stew - ards of God's seas, mar - velling; 4 We are stew - ards of God's skies; faced with.



share his gifts with oth - ers, for through - out our
 pect, pre - serve, and farm it, help - ing oth - ers
 at their con - stant mo - tions, and dare not the
 prob - lems of pol - lu - tion, we seek lead - ers,



hu - man race, all are neigh - bors, sis - ters, broth - ers.
 un - der - stand we must nev - er waste nor harm it.
 Lord dis - please by the spoil - ing of our o - ceans.
 strong and wise, who will work for each so - lu - tion.



To earth's na - tions, then, be friends,
 To all na - ture, then be friends,
 To its crea - tures, then, be friends,
 To heaven's won - ders, then, be friends,



thank - ful for each joy God sends.
 thank - ful for each joy God sends.
 thank - ful for each joy God sends.
 thank - ful for each joy God sends.

*Charge & Blessing

Postlude

"A Litany of Joy"

A. Fedak

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

Today's Worship Team:

Preacher: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Organist: Itke Prins

Vocalist: Glenn Claydon

Tech Team: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr



Note: You are invited to coffee and refreshments down in Zimmerman Hall.

Prayers, Joys & Concerns

- Rev. Mashona, for the passing of her paternal aunt.
 - Family and friends of Mary Ann Selmer as they mourn her passing.
 - Family and friends of Miranda Rand of the Schenectady Classis
 - Mia Westman and the Westman family, for the passing of Willem
 - Zak Morton and family, for the passing of James Morton, Zak's father
 - Kathleen Claydon and family, for the passing of her mother Asunta.
 - Joe Vasta and Albie, friends of the Persons
 - Sam, family of Barb and Dave Andrews
 - Ian Leet
 - Imani Brewer, for the passing of her grandfather
 - Eula, friend of Joeanna Brown
 - Patty Salisbury, for the passing of her niece Kimberly
 - Marilyn Bonam, Sara's mother
 - Sharnelle Jones
 - Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
 - Kokese Ballou
 - Janie Unright, friend of the Andrews family
 - Carol LaBatte
 - Norma McClement
 - For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
 - David Bradley
 - For Jason Shahid
 - Ruth and Josue Torres
 - For Jim, Rose Hunsberger's father
 - Alexis Parry, niece of Cheryl Gowie
 - Gail Santimaw, friend of Judith Utley-Suess
 - John Utley, brother of Judith Utley-Suess
 - Judith Utley-Suess, for strength
 - Ronald Stockhoff
 - For Barbara W., dear friend of Barb & Dave Andrews and Donna Jones
 - Harold Bushnel
 - Alex Bliss
 - Mary Weijola
 - Cheryl Gowie
 - Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
 - Mary Ann Selmer
 - Anthony, of the Brown Family
 - Donna Schultz
 - Olivia Gaydushek
 - Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
 - Prayers for this burden of gun violence and its aftermath
 - An end to the war in Ukraine
- Prayer Concerns? If you would like your church family to join you in prayer, please share your concerns and joys with us. Call the office at 518-463-4449 or email office@firstchurchinalbany.org.*

Upcoming events...

Sheridan Ave. Lot next to FCIA

FCIA PRESENTS

Through Labor Day

DRIVE-IN Worship

SUNDAY WORSHIP GOES OUTSIDE

SUNDAY, MAY 21 AT 10AM

FOLLOWED BY THE LEMONADE LULL IN CLEE PARK

110 NORTH PEARL ST. ALBANY NY 518-463-4449

WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG

A NIGHT OF

Worship

Thursday, May 4, 2023 7pm

6pm Potluck

The First Church in Albany
110 North Pearl Street
Albany NY 12207

www.firstchurchinalbany.org


unity of albany a positive path for spiritual living

is delighted to present


A Joyful Noise

Capital District Spirit Choir

Sunday, April 30, 7pm



Featured at the 2022 Saratoga Jazz Festival



Gospel Music Directors Garland Nelson and Azzaam Hameed lead inspirational voices from throughout the Capital Region for an evening of Joyful Noise!

The songs range from traditional Gospel and contemporary church music to soulful pop classics.

It's impossible to stay quiet or in your seat as Garland Nelson stirs up the Spirit!

21 King Ave, Albany
(518) 453-3603
Suggested donation: \$20

www.UnityAlbany.org



THE 75TH

TULIP FESTIVAL

WASHINGTON PARK

11A.M. - 6P.M.
MAY 13 & 14
2023

ALBANY NEW YORK
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WWW.ALBANYEVENTS.ORG

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AlbanyNYevents

LET'S SAVE OUR PLANET

Save the earth means saving the life of this planet. Let's get up and bring the world a breath of life.

What's Happening This Week At

The First Church in Albany

- Sunday 4.23 10am Indoor Worship at FCIA, also on Zoom
AW Fellowship and Coffee in Zimmerman
- Monday 4.24 9am Food Pantry
- Tuesday 4.25 noon Zoom Book Study
- Wednesday 4.26 9am Food Pantry
noon AA Meeting
noon Centering Prayer in the Chapel
- Thursday 4.27 7pm Soup & Sandwiches in the Park
Last one of the Season!

AW = After Worship

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, May 4—A Night of Worship
- Sunday, May 7—Heritage Sunday, Crop Walk
- Sunday, May 14—Mother's Day, Congregational Meeting (Election Office Bearers) AW
- Sunday, May 21—First Drive-In of 2023
- Sunday, May 28—Pentecost
- Monday, May 29—Memorial Day, Office and Pantry Closed

*Meeting Schedules are subject to change. Watch your email for updates if you are a part of these gatherings.



First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St.,
Albany NY 12207
518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

Earth Day Litany

Leader: Let us gather together in prayer, mindful of our interconnectedness with all of creation, and our call to care for one another and our common home.

People: We are grateful for the gift of the Earth and all its inhabitants.

Leader: And so, we pray for wisdom and courage,

People: To recognize the ways in which we have contributed to the ecological crisis, and to take action to protect and restore our planet.

Leader: Therefore, we stand in solidarity with those who are most affected by climate change,

People: And with future generations who will inherit the consequences of our actions.

Leader: We not only stand in solidarity, but we resolve to take concrete action by

People: Committing ourselves to advocate for policies that protect the environment and promote social justice, as well as living in life-giving ways.

Leader: We see this as a calling—

People: A calling from God who is working to make all things new.

Leader: Creator God, send your Holy Spirit to be our strength and guide,

People: as we become agents of your renewal in our world that belongs to you.

Litany inspired by (1) Creation Justice Ministries, a ministry of the National Council of Churches USA; (2) Pope Francis's encyclicals *Laudato si'*: *on care for our common home* and *Fratelli tutti*: *on fraternity and social friendship*; (3) *The Christian Reformed Church in North America's Our World Belongs to God*.

Get Involved in the Capital Region!

1. Albany Pine Bush Preserve: This preserve is a unique ecosystem with a variety of trails, programs, and volunteer opportunities to get involved with conservation efforts.
 2. Hudson River Estuary Program: The Estuary Program offers a variety of opportunities for community members to participate in citizen science, habitat restoration, and education programs focused on the Hudson River and its watershed.
 3. Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy: This organization is dedicated to conserving natural areas throughout the Capital Region. They offer volunteer opportunities and have a variety of programs and events focused on nature conservation.
 4. Friends of Five Rivers: This organization supports the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar, NY. They offer volunteer opportunities, educational programs, and events focused on nature education and conservation.
 5. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation: The DEC offers a variety of programs and events focused on environmental conservation and education throughout the state. They also have volunteer opportunities and resources for individuals and communities interested in environmental stewardship.
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Consider connecting with the First Church in Albany Theologian in Residence, Rev. Mark Chaffin, chaplain at Baptist Health, Nursing, and Rehabilitation Center: waveriderk1@gmail.com

He would love to help you connect your faith to action!